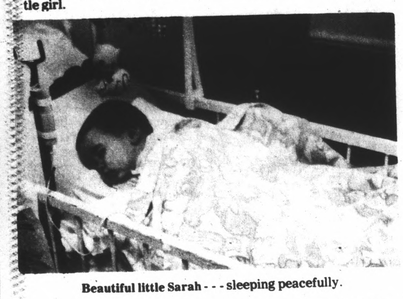
Sarah Browning Taylor - such a lot of equipment for such a little girl.



Beautiful little Sarah - - - sleeping peacefully.

A Little Girl Fights For Life

By Frances H. Paulette

It was going to be a good vacation . . . they could feel it in their bones. The Taylors, Jeffery and Debbie, along with their beautiful young daughter, Sarah Browning, had driven from Forest, Va. (near Lynchburg) to Myrtle Beach, SC. on May 31. Vacationing with them were his parents, Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Taylor, pastor of Rocks Baptist Church in Appomattox County and Jeff's brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor and children, Scottie and Joey.

Sarah Browning Taylor was born on February 16, 1978 and her parents had not had much time for vacationing until now. Since their daughter had reached the age of three and one-half months, the Taylors most likely felt a bit more relaxed about their first child and were anticipating a good time of relaxed family fun.

Grandma and grandpa Taylor had the pleasure of keeping the grandchildren while their sons and their daughters-in-law enjoyed minature golf during the late afternoon. The evening went by quickly and soon it was Sarah's bedtime.

Debbie and Jeffery put their young daughter down for the night, gave her a good night kiss and went in to join the others.

It was about twenty minutes later that Debbie, being the attentive mother she is, went in to check on Sarah before preparing to go to bed.

Instead of finding Sarah, sleeping peacefully, she found instead that her beautiful daughter had turned a peculiar blue color and didn't seem to be breathing. Picking up the baby, trying desperately to shake life into the little body, Debbie screamed for help.

In a matter of minutes the Rescue Squad was called and Sarah and her parents were speeding on their way, first to the hospital in Myrtle Beach and subsequently to the University of South Carolina Hospital in Charleston.

Upon examination the doctors were puzzled; they thought it might be spinal meningitis but after thorough testing failed to substantiate their suspected diagnosis, they proceeded to test Sarah for other possibilities.

Finally the conclusion was reached that Sarah Browning Taylor's illness was aborted crib death. She had been striken with crib death, known as the silent killer of infants, and when her mother picked her up the crib death was aborted or interrupted. It is believed that, had her mother been only one-half minute late in picking up her daughter, the baby would have been dead.

From May 31 until July 1, Sarah was dependent on a respirator. There were brief periods when she could breathe without it but not for long; she would be dependent on the machine again to keep her alive.

It was on June 1 that Sarah was flown by private plane to the Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg.

Before leaving Charleston, the doctors gave the parents and grandparents no hope but the Taylors did not share the opinion of the doctors.

Looking at Sarah with her beautiful brown eyes and brown hair that has a promise of red highlights, the Taylors love her deeply and have committed her to God's care and have never stopped hoping.

Already walking closely with their Lord the Taylors are aware of a deepening of their faith each day since the onset of Sarah's illness.

When Sarah was permitted to leave the hospital, the Taylors were unable to decide whether to take their daughter to their home in Forest or to come to Appomattox County in order to be with his parents. The doctors made the decision for them. Sarah must be kept near the hospital.

Sometime earlier Rev. and Mrs. Taylor had purchased a home in Lynchburg with the idea of retiring there some day; it just so happened that at the time Sarah was leaving the hospital the house was empty.

Since the doctors advised the Taylors to have two people with Sarah at all times, Jeff and Debbie moved into this father's house in Lynchburg and to help them out Rev. and Mrs. Taylor moved from Appomattox County to the Lynchburg house, also. Jeff, who works at Limitorque and his wife, Debbie, are relieved in the round-the-clock care of Debbie by Grandma and Grandpa.

Sarah must be fed every four hours through a tube in her stomach. There is also a heart monitor for Sarah; the Taylors purchased this at a cost of $1,200.00. Should there be any significant change in heart rate, the monitor would sound an alarm giving the parents warning that their daughter is in grave danger and steps must be taken immeidately to save her life.

In addition to the heart monitor, Sarah is breathing with the help of an Enricher Machine which provides warm air. Since Sarah cannot maintain a body temperature it is necessary that she be kept warm at all times. The Enricher Machine is rented by the Taylors at a cost of $160.00 a month.

The Taylors, realizing just how important the heart monitor, the Enricher Machine and heat for the home are to Sarah's life, they became concerned as to what would happen if the electricity would suddenly be cut off. They inquired about a generator.

Some very dear friends, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ranson bought a generator and are providing it for Sarah's use for as long as she needs it. This means there is one less thing to worry about.

The Taylors are constantly doing things that will stimulate Sarah to feel, to taste, to hear and to respond. Debbie will place a single drop of orange or apple juice on Sarah's tongue to stimulate the development of her taste; she exercises the baby by bouncing her on the bed.

Sarah is also experiencing something else. Debbie will take her little daughter on her lap as she plays the organ, believing the sound of music will be beneficial in acquainting Sarah with various sounds.

The hospital bill so far has exceeded $50,000; part of this has been paid by insurance. The Taylors expect to have to pay from $8,000 to $10,000 of the bill incurred since Sarah's move to the Baptist Hospital.

Rev. Taylor says, "We feel that Sarah's experience will be used for God's Glory; we believe that the doctors may be able to learn something from Sarah's illness that will enable the medical profession to come closer to finding the cause and prevention of the silent killer, crib death. Whatever happens, God will be glorified."

It takes a lot of money to give this beautiful little girl the things that are necessary in order that she might live. The Taylors are not complaining; they just praise God for all he has done and for what He will do for them in the future. There are, however, people who feel that the Taylors shouldn't have to face this staggering expense alone.

The people of Rocks Baptist Church have set up a find:

The Rocks Baptist Church Benevolent Fund
Pamplin, Va. 23958

Anyone wishing to make a donation may send a check to this address or to Claiborne Inge, Treasurer, Rt. 2, Appomattox. You may go in the Farmers National Bank and make a deposit to this account at any time.

Won't you, first of all pray regularly for Sarah and her family and then give, as much and as often as you can, so that Sarah Browning Taylor will have the chance she deserves . . to LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH, and PRAISE GOD!

Something New Of Interest To Veterans

Among some 2.3 million Veterans Administration pension beneficiaries who will receive Veterans Administration annual income questionnaires this year will be 813,000 elderly veterans and nearly half a million children of deceased wartime veterans who have never before been asked to fill out the forms.

The questionnaires must be completed and returned to VA to prevent loss of pension in 1979.

VA pension officials said pending legislation makes it necessary for them to gather income information on children receiving pension benefits and pensioners age 72 and older who have previously been exempt from completing the income questionnaire after being on the VA rolls for two successive years.

Pensions are paid to wartime veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities who meet income limitations, and to their eligible widows and children.

Currently, the annual income cutoff point for single veterans is $3,770. Veterans with dependents cannot earn more than $5,070 and still be eligible for a VA pension. The annual income limitation for dependent children is $3,080.

Annual income limitations also apply to parents of veterans who died of service-connected causes.

"The annual income questionnaires being sent this year to previously exempt elderly beneficiaries and to eligible children will enable us to be certain that these individuals receive the maximum possible pension in 1979," VA pension officials said.

The income questionnaire will be mailed with VA's November 1 pension checks and must be returned to the agency by January 1, 1979.

VA officials urged all beneficiaries over 72 and dependent children of deceased veterans who receive the annual income questionnaire for the first time to contact the nearest representative of the Virginia Division of War Veterans' Claims or the nearest Veterans Administration office if they have any questions about the reporting form.

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Safety Suggestions

Fall means you'll be using lights and appliances with increasing frequency, so make certain your home's wiring system is able to handle the extra load.

This is also the time to check on outdoor lighting equipment, to ensure weatherproof operation.

The approaching winter season is the most dangerous when it comes to home fires, so take precautions by installing a smoke detector and providing emergency escape procedures for the whole family.

Make sure all dead limbs are removed from nearby trees, in preparation for storms to come.

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